

THE EVENING STAR.

With Sunday Morning Edition.

WASHINGTON.

SUNDAY, June 21, 1908

THEODORE W. NOYES, Editor

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THE STAR has a regular and permanent Sunday circulation much more than the combined circulation of the other Washington dailies. As a News and Washington Medium it has no competitor.

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The Republican National Committee.

The list of the members of the new republican national committee shows the names of some very clever politicians. Murray Crane of Massachusetts, Lowell of Illinois, Murphy of New Jersey, Penrose of Pennsylvania, Scott of West Virginia, and Hale of Tennessee, have records showing capacity for party management.

Among the new men is Mr. Vorys of Ohio. He earned his place by his work for Judge Taft, while showing him to be a hustler showed him also to be lacking somewhat in the art of conciliation. But now that he has been promoted, and conciliation is in order, he should address himself to the study of the situation and to closing some of the breaches he has helped to make.

Addicks of Delaware has passed. He is succeeded by Coleman du Pont, a man of ability and means and good reputation, and a member of an influential Delaware family. Both the state and the party gain by the change.

It is while Delaware was so wise Rhode Island should remain so unwise. Never was there a better time for unloading Boss Braxton, whose performances have long been a reproach to the state. But the blind boss retains his hold at home, and the party at large must look for him to be a hindrance.

Maryland presents a new man, to whom the Baltimore American pays the following compliment:

"The selection of Mr. W. P. Jackson, the son of Representative William H. Jackson of the first Maryland Congress, as a member of the national republican committee from Maryland is a recognition of the policy, wise in politics, as in business, of introducing into the party, in other words, bringing young men into the party, to the activities. But in addition, it may be said that the selection of Mr. Jackson is admirably calculated to render his party efficient service as the state representative in the national organization. He has been conspicuously active in politics, but it is not to be inferred from that that he will not develop into an exceptionally successful organizer."

Will Judge Taft select his campaign manager from the committee? He is not obliged to do so. He may draw upon the whole list of his friends for the one to discharge the duties of that important post. But the committee is able to fit man to the job. The candidate with a mighty good man, Mr. Crane was not a first-class boomer, but he is an able party boomer, and in fact man now. He is not a talker, but a worker; not a showy, but a safe man. He stands well with the business world, from which he graduated into politics. Will it be Crane?

If not the Massachusetts senator, then it should be somebody like him and equally as good. The post of the first importance, and only a first-class man should be chosen for it.

Closing in on the Race Gamblers.

Closings accumulate to prove the steady spread of sentiment in behalf of the suppression of race-track gambling throughout the country. Prohibitory laws have been passed recently in the District and the state of New York, and now a law is now in process of enactment in Louisiana. In Denver a court has just ruled that race-track betting is gambling in the eyes of the state law prohibiting such a practice, and has thus for the time put the institution under the ban in that commonwealth. A dispatch from Lexington, Ky., just received is as follows:

"James O. Keene, one of the best known trotting-horse trainers in the world, arrived here last night from California. There he has been for some time during the winter season. He says the outlook for racing all over the country is dark because of anti-bet laws, and that from the trend of thought in California he is confident that within two years racing will be killed there."

"Business men" throughout the United States have come to realize the risk they run in exposing their employees to the temptation of the race track. Especially in Maryland is this sentiment growing. Immediately after the enactment of the New York law the story was printed that the race-track gamblers, driven out of the Long Island track, had moved to Maryland and built up their industry anew in that state. This announcement aroused a feeling of indignation and apprehension in the nearby state, and the governor was quoted as expressing his hope that a prohibitory law would be promptly enacted to prevent such a visitation. It was stated in this connection that the racing corporations, many of which have headquarters in Baltimore, are enlisted in the warfare against race-track gambling, inasmuch as it has been found that such companies always lose most heavily through defaulting clerks and trusted employees in cities in the vicinity of which races are run with bookmaking accomplices.

Mr. Fairbanks must be credited with a gallant struggle to keep the vice presidency from being the step toward oblivion it has long been considered.

The popularity of the administration is shown by the fact that no Taft emblem has yet been found to supersede the Teddy bear.

Coroners' Inquests.

There is a dispute just at present between the district attorney and the coroner of New York city as to the fact, often commented upon, that the inquest method of starting punitive processes in the courts is somewhat out of date. A young woman shot and killed a physician in that city a few days ago in circumstances which left no possible question as to her motive and all the facts of the crime. There were eyewitnesses and the player admitted the act. Nevertheless, under the somewhat archaic laws relating to homicide, an inquest was held and the girl was remanded for action by the grand jury. Meanwhile the district attorney, possibly with the idea of demonstrating that his office could show speed on occasion, took the initiative and secured the coroner's warrant, and the grand jury returned an indictment before the jury had formulated its findings. Now the coroner wants to know why this should be, being a man inclined to stand upon the dignity of his office.

It is the general opinion today that in the majority of cases the coroner's inquest is a useless proceeding. Perhaps in cases of accidents or disasters involving human culpability, negligence, incompetence or indifference to the laws of safety the inquest serves a useful purpose in collating the evidence while the circumstances are fresh in the minds of men and while the physical facts remain unchanged to testify to the conditions and degrees of responsibility. But even when the coroner's jury in such cases has rendered its verdict the grand jury proceeds independently, and often ignores the findings returned by the coroner and accuses different individuals. In the case of a homicide what the grand jury chiefly needs is the testimony of a medical officer of the court relative to the exact cause of death, and of the police regarding the conditions at the time of the discovery of the body.

The coroner, as the medical officer of the court, occupies an important position, and is a valuable adjunct to the process of ascertaining guilt and administering punishment, but his usefulness is virtually at an end when he has ascertained the physical condition in cases of death by violence or inquired into suspicious circumstances surrounding deaths without the attendance of physicians. His report to the court through the district attorney should be the full measure of his activities. The only substantial argument for the continuation of the coroner's inquest as the first step of investigation is that it is conducted in the open as distinguished from the secret inquiry of the grand jury. There is a distaste for star chamber proceedings, and yet it is in the inquest that the coroner's jury and not the open examination of the coroner's jury upon which formal accusations are based.

Organized Charity Work.

It was a surprise to many Washingtonians, when the announcement was made that Mr. Charles F. Weller had resigned the position of secretary of the Associated Charities, that he had accepted a similar position in Pittsburgh, to learn that organized charity work in the latter city has only just been started. With its great wealth of individuals, its numerous industrial establishments and its extensive shanties Pittsburgh should long ago have been aided in the solution of its social problems by a systematic charity enterprise. Yet practically up to the present time there has been there none save scattered individual efforts to ameliorate the condition of the poor. There has been abundant giving of alms, but in no manner to encourage instead of curing the dependence of the poor upon such means of assistance.

The inspiring aim of the modern organized charity association is to prevent poverty rather than merely to lessen it. This of course is an ideal object and is never fully attained. But in the conditions such as those existing in Washington much can be and is done to approximate the correction of evils which afflict the poor and to give them personal strength and courage to meet their own needs. Self-help is the watchword of all intelligently managed charities today. Almsgiving is regarded as the last resort to meet otherwise incurable evils. A man out of work is helped to find employment. The charity organization serves as an exchange, a medium of communication, a guide to the energies of individuals and the course of social settlement work, an offshoot from central organized charity endeavor, great good is accomplished when consideration is had for the sensibilities of the poor and the inspiration remains centered in the thought of self-help. It is all educational in the best sense, this propaganda of correction and cure. Women are taught better ways of housekeeping, better methods of child caring, better habits of dress. Men are gradually and subtly led to realize the folly of intemperance and the wisdom and benefits of decent living. Children are brought out from the darkness into the light of wholesome surroundings and given an idea of higher thoughts that in a more favored social circle are part of the daily mental pabulum.

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House next March, will have a vacation of two years before qualifying as senator, and by that time matters, in the event of Mr. Bryan's election, will have settled somewhat. In the case of Mr. Bryan's defeat Mr. Williams will have two years in which to study the Taft administration, which when he takes his seat in the Senate he will be called upon to oppose.

In either event, therefore, a little breathing time may be well employed by a man of Mr. Williams' prominence and responsibility, and we may look to see him improve it.

Worry and Government Work.

The following paragraph from the Philadelphia Inquirer states the average out-of-view of the government clerk.

"A clerk in the government offices at Washington has served fifty-one years, and ascribes his present good health to the fact that he has always adopted the motto, 'Don't worry.' That is all very well under his conditions. Most men who work for Uncle Sam have no cause to worry, but how about the rest of us?"

The clerk in question is an exception. Having served for fifty-one years, he passed through the old spoils period, when four years was the normal limit to a man's usefulness in the public service. Those were the days of worry over the bare question of holding on during one administration. In later times the civil service law has somewhat lessened the risk of public office holding, but it is not so much the government clerk who settles back to a feeling of absolute security. For Congress meets once a year, and this means an annual threat against the clerks. First of all, there is the sessional attack upon the civil service law. Although it has always heretofore failed, no one can tell just when it may succeed. Congress does some extraordinary things occasionally. Then there are always some would-be economists who think there are too many clerks, that the hours are too short and the privileges too many, the annual leave too generous, and the standard of efficiency too low. Unless a clerk has become case-hardened by passing so often through the fire of congressional attack he is likely to shrink wither at the state of apprehension which a systematic charity enterprise. Yet practically up to the present time there has been there none save scattered individual efforts to ameliorate the condition of the poor. There has been abundant giving of alms, but in no manner to encourage instead of curing the dependence of the poor upon such means of assistance.

Disappointed Lobbyists.

Congress adjourned the 14th of June, 1858, without, however, engaging, as to the lower House, in any of the eccentric antics reported from that body a few weeks ago. The passing of the national legislature moved the Star to comment upon the lobby which had infested the Capitol for several months.

"Those who comprehend what goes on in Washington behind the curtain that is, the experienced observers—have duly noted the extent and activity of the 'lobby' here during the past fortnight. The 'hubbub' concerning the lobby in the newspapers for the past years and before investigating committees during the session around the subject of the lobby, has been as far as possible, and to borrow while at its work. During the last fortnight its schemes have been developed, and it has been able to secure the necessary to an extent more enormous than ever before. In furtherance of which not only nearly all the old stagers, but an able, experienced and influential group of new recruits were enlisted. Conspicuous among them were many of the vociferous 'reformers' who, before the commencement of the session, were wont to denounce the lobby as a 'don't-worry' club."

In truth, the government clerks are zealous, faithful, efficient workers, who take an interest in their tasks and apply themselves diligently to the mastery of them. They are experts in many lines, and it is difficult to replace them when vacancies occur. The merit system of appointments and promotions enables the higher officials to keep the standards up to the government's requirements, but without the help of steady individual advancement the departmental service would be in a constant state of set-back, owing to disturbing changes. It is to be questioned whether higher efficiency records are written in any branch of commercial work than are scored constantly in the government service.

The change from the "overpaid, underworked government clerk" will probably persist indefinitely. It belongs in the same class with the mother-in-law joke, and without it the paragraph writers of the country would feel at a loss for stock materials.

Racing men in New York state are wondering what anybody ever saw in Hughes anyway.

The "steam roller" system of nomination proved more rapid than its name would indicate.

Mr. Foraker is now expected to go through an entire summer without mentioning Brownsville.

Oyster Bay will have a sad shock when it realizes that in a short time it must give up the prestige of being a presidential residence.

In order to maintain the enthusiasm between conventions, the Washington ball players are expected to win a few games.

It would be too much to ask Count Boni, in his capacity of journalist, to write up an account of the de Sagan wedding.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

A Student of Caricature.

"Did you enjoy your visit to Washington while Congress was in session?"

"Yes," answered the young woman, "but I was a little disappointed to find that they did not have their names printed on their collars and shirt-fronts as they do in most of the pictures of them that I have seen published."

The question of a letter.

"So your daughter has made a matrimonial alliance with Count Fuchshilf."

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"So," remarked the boyhood friend, "you are in the swim."

"Mother and the girls think I am," answered Mr. Cumrox. "But my personal feelings are those of a man who has fallen overboard and ought to be hollering for help."

"Don't complain," said Uncle Eben, "if you find that somebody has an ax to grind. You're lucky these days if, when you gits through turnin' de grindstone, he doesn't han' you de ax an' speck you to do his choppin' for 'im."

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FIFTY YEARS AGO IN THE STAR.

Half a century ago there was little sympathy with the idea of government intervention in the affairs of the trades and industries of the people. In the Star of June 14, 1858, is an editorial relative to criticism which had been aimed at Mr. D. J. Browne, the head of the division of agriculture of the patent office.

"We really know not where just now there is a better abused individual than this same gentleman. No inventor or discoverer, or dreamer about an agricultural humbug of the times, it seems to us, fails to attack him with some unfounded allegation or other. We confess to little knowledge of the grounds of the general government with agriculture, because we are opposed to the principle of centralization to which it inevitably leads."

The clerk in question is an exception. Having served for fifty-one years, he passed through the old spoils period, when four years was the normal limit to a man's usefulness in the public service. Those were the days of worry over the bare question of holding on during one administration. In later times the civil service law has somewhat lessened the risk of public office holding, but it is not so much the government clerk who settles back to a feeling of absolute security. For Congress meets once a year, and this means an annual threat against the clerks. First of all, there is the sessional attack upon the civil service law. Although it has always heretofore failed, no one can tell just when it may succeed. Congress does some extraordinary things occasionally. Then there are always some would-be economists who think there are too many clerks, that the hours are too short and the privileges too many, the annual leave too generous, and the standard of efficiency too low. Unless a clerk has become case-hardened by passing so often through the fire of congressional attack he is likely to shrink wither at the state of apprehension which a systematic charity enterprise. Yet practically up to the present time there has been there none save scattered individual efforts to ameliorate the condition of the poor. There has been abundant giving of alms, but in no manner to encourage instead of curing the dependence of the poor upon such means of assistance.

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The signing of the North sea treaty may be said to be the counter stroke to the entente formed between France, England and Russia, and the consequent signing of the signature.

Like the visit of Mr. Fallières to London, and the visit of King Edward to Reval, Berlin, the Berliner Tageblatt, referring to King Gustaf's visit, remarks:

"The two peoples, Germans and Swedes, have only sentiments of sympathy and friendship the one for the other. When the question of the Aland Islands came up, and when Russia attempted to abolish the clause of the treaty of Paris and recover her entire liberty of these neighboring islands of Stockholm, German public opinion was clearly and manifestly in favor of Sweden. Russia, it is understood, has postponed but not abandoned the realization of her desires, and this fact should render more ardent and cordial the relations of our two countries."

The speech of King Gustaf V at the Berlin banquet is full of significance and merits more than ordinary attention.

"In a few days twenty years will have passed since Providence placed in your majesty's energetic hand the glorious heritage of Germany, Denmark and German princes and the German people may look back on the extension, which is almost without exception, of the material and intellectual forces of the empire. For me and for my people also this period has been of the highest importance. It indicates a happy day for the friendship relations between our countries. By the North sea and the Baltic treaties, which serve to consolidate universal peace, the relations of our two countries have become closer. I recall that it is due to the activity of your majesty that the new road opened to increase economical traffic between Germany and Sweden will be achieved in a year. May it serve as a new bridge for the hearts of peoples of identical races!"

The signing of the recent treaties has given considerable dissatisfaction both in London and at Amsterdam. The National Review, for June writes:

Allies. Displeased. "All the powers are equally interested in the maintenance of the status quo in the Baltic and North sea, and though a certain amount of conventional praise has been bestowed on the recently concluded agreements concerning the littoral of these oceans, these documents are regarded by serious persons as mere extension of paper policy."

"For what they are worth they appear to be scores for German policy, as neither England nor France is a party to the Baltic agreement, which was signed by Russia, Germany, Sweden and Denmark, while Russia was successfully excluded from the North sea agreement by the German, Denmark, France, Holland and Sweden. Germany, it will be noted, figures in both, and her jingoism claim that the Baltic agreement is a step toward making the Baltic into a mare clausum."

As regards the Holland-Belgian entente, these countries being directly connected with the situation in the North and Baltic seas, King Langlois has contributed a series of articles in the Temps since 1906 in which he has shown the military and economic interests of a rapid movement between Holland and Belgium, not only for these countries, but for France and England.

King Langlois, in the course of his series of articles, pretends that the adversarial attitude of the entente toward the German Empire is a disposition to exaggerate difficulties of dependence upon our neighbor, pan-Germanism, feels that the entente is a blow at German ambitions.

As regards the progress toward the Holland-Belgian entente, November 4, 1907, a commission composed of political and military members assembled at Brussels under the presidency of M. Beernaert, the Belgian secretary of state. The political and economic members of the commission, which was charged with the task of preparing a restricted economic union which would result in a customs union to be formed in a short time.

The military entente has encountered much hostility, especially in Holland. In the Netherlands, the historical town of Breda, where in 1667 a treaty was executed between France and England (surrendering their several conquests in America), Capt. Tonnet of the Holland army energetically opposed both entente and alliance, declaring that Holland was in no danger from Germany.

On the other hand, in the same city, the officers Hoogboom and Diekhoff declared that delays were dangerous; that the alliance should be prepared now and not wait to be improvised. The independence of Holland should not be maintained if Belgium should lose hers. Besides if Belgium should be threatened Holland should go to her rescue.

The Holland-Jonker Klerk, a man of considerable importance, has written a pamphlet which has been made the subject of review by "Lord Wal" in the "Armees Klere."

Mr. Klerk is a partisan of the entente. He combats the idea that the Holland army would be acting in obedience to a natural law in seeking a rapprochement with Germany because of her assumed Germanic origin. "A poetic license," says M. Klerk, "because Holland is the issue of mixed elements. By the centuries of Germanic migrations which preceded the epoch of Charles Magnus there was formed, between the Zuyderzee and the Alps, an intermediate region where the great civilizations of continental Europe came together, contradictory, mixing and exchanging in a confused tangle, from which was formed an original, different in the extreme from that which flourished beyond the Rhine or in the harmonious valleys of the French rivers."

The pamphlet throws light upon the cause of the little sympathy which Holland has for an alliance with Germany. The author of the pamphlet declares that the Holland army does not wish to be either German, English or French; he desires to remain himself. He nevertheless warns his fellow-citizens against the "German peril."

"The German peril," he says, "exists. Germany has a great interest in possessing Holland's ports in order to have an open way to the sea. Great Britain combats the idea that the Holland army would be acting in obedience to a natural law in seeking a rapprochement with Germany because of her assumed Germanic origin. "A poetic license," says M. Klerk, "because Holland is the issue of mixed elements. By the centuries of Germanic migrations which preceded the epoch of Charles Magnus there was formed, between the Zuyderzee and the Alps, an intermediate region where the great civilizations of continental Europe came together, contradictory, mixing and exchanging in a confused tangle, from which was formed an original, different in the extreme from that which flourished beyond the Rhine or in the harmonious valleys of the French rivers."

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